MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know what is the rate at which rice is sold at Trivandrum?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Current price is Rs. 26-8-0 for a bag 160 lbs. net.

Purchase of food grains.

126. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have proposed to do away with the present system of storing food grains under the direct custody of the department;

(*b*) the nature of the proposals;

(*c*) as a result of the proposal whether they have ordered for the release of the store-houses from commandeering; and

(*d*) why they have ordered for re-commandeering the store-houses which were released?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

(*d*) No godown which was released was ordered to be re-commandeered.

Purchase of food grains.

127. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount invested in purchasing the food grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: From 1118 to end of Medom 1121, a sum of Rs. 2,654·06 lakhs has been invested on purchasing food grains.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know from the honourable member what amount was realised by the sale of foodgrains during this period?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is roughly about 27 crores of rupees. The accounts have not been finalised however.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the accounts were begun to be prepared, with regard to food purchase, only just now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. Some nine months back we appointed a special officer with the requisite staff for auditing the accounts in the Food Department.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: So may I take that there was no account kept before nine months?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No. Accounts are being kept from the beginning. A special officer with a large staff has been appointed for auditing the accounts. As I have already explained we have a joint account with our sister State of Cochin. We are getting foodstuffs from various places like the United Provinces, the Central Provinces etc. Also foodgrains are allotted for Travancore and Cochin together. The Special Officer with his staff of auditors and accountants is preparing the balance-sheet and in another three months his report is expected to be ready.

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MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether there is any annual accounting and auditing with regard to the purchase and sale?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is a joint account with the Cochin State. It is also a combined account of our purchases of food grains from the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, Sind, etc. The Special Audit Officer with the staff of auditors and accountants is engaged in the auditing of the accounts and the preparation of the balance sheet.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Shall I take it that the accounts between Cochin and other States were begun to be prepared and audited only before seven months?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I don't follow the question, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: It has been stated that the accounts have been begun to be prepared only about six or seven months back and that the adjustment of accounts between Cochin and other States is a very laborious task. So shall I take it that the adjustment began only seven months before?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There seems to be some misapprehension on the point. Joint accounts have been maintained from the very beginning with our sister State of Cochin. But the regular auditing is now being done.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Is the honourable member aware that the Cochin Government are publishing their accounts every year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. They are giving some tentative figures. The joint accounts have not been closed so far.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. A complete audited statement will be prepared very soon and will be placed on the table for the reference of honourable members.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Are there any data which will give us the price of stock available in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: [illegible] ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഏതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു കണക്കും ഈ സഭയെ അറിയിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളത് ശരിയാണോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: അറിയിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. A completely audited statement with details to show the transactions between this Government and the Governments of the Punjab, Cochin, Sind, the United Provinces, Frontier Provinces, Patiala and various other States is being prepared by a Special Officer. We have a rough idea of what the state of our accounts is. As the Officer has already stated we have spent about 26 crores of rupees. We know this fact from our transactions. We have now received and expect to receive goods worth about 27 crores of rupees. The transactions will not result in a big profit but it is certain that it will not result in a loss. But if what would satisfy honourable members is a fully audited account,—I dare say it will be a bulky document—it will be placed on the table within the next three or four months.

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